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Textbooks Go Paperless

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Grant gives recycling initiative a boost

In December 2008, Andrews University was awarded a \$1,815 grant by the Berrien County Resource Recovery (BCRR) office, a grant in excess of the typical \$1,500 amount, to improve the recycling facilities on campus. Members of the Village Green Preservation Society (VGPS) wrote the grant proposal, which will fund the installation of recycling bins in Meier, Burman and Lamson residence halls. Heather Knight, provost, agreed to match the funds.

Ben Oliver, president of the VGPS, says, "The dormitories are one of the greatest nuclei of the campus. We hope recycling there will empower individuals in the community and other departments on campus to follow that example."

Tom Goodwin, professor of biology and VGPS sponsor, says Reliable Disposal, the company responsible for collecting Andrews University's waste, recycles recyclable items that are clearly separated from trash. If recycling is mixed with trash, however, it goes straight to the trash pile. As the necessary separation has yet to be institutionalized across campus, the installment of recycling bins in the residence halls represents an important step toward environmental responsibility at Andrews University.

Oliver says many students are already used to recycling in their home towns and neighborhoods. "This program will allow them and all others to really behold the University's newfound vision to be stewards of our borrowed Earth. But what is invaluable is the reform of habits and thoughtfulness to recycle, and hopefully the desire for Andrews students to continue their new custom wherever they go," he says.

Funding and equipment is crucial to move the campus toward being more "green," but it is only part of the equation. That's why the VGPS seeks to



Using monies from a \$1,815 grant from the Berrien County Resource Recovery, members of the Village Green Preservation Society including (from left) Tybee Wall, Benjamin Oliver, Jeff Habenicht and Melody Johnson obtained and distributed new recycling containers for the campus residence halls.

educate students and faculty about best practices for keeping the environment clean. Through student assemblies, co-curricular choices, the distribution of pamphlets and group meetings, the VGPS hopes to create an ethic of recycling and reusing that increases "green" awareness and leads to more "green" actions.

"I'm pleased to see movement on campus to line up practical considerations with what we believe as Christians," says Goodwin. "Hopefully we can sustain it."

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist,
Office of Integrated Marketing &
Communication

Textbooks go paperless

For students at Andrews University, the catch phrase "going green" carries significant meaning. Beginning in fall 2009, students will have a new "green" option when they buy their textbooks.

Cindy Swanson, Andrews University textbook manager, is pioneering the use of Universal Digital Textbooks (UDTs), or "e-books." Swanson learned of the new technology at an October 2008 training seminar. Convinced of the environmental benefits and student advantages, she has worked on the project ever since. Beginning with the fall 2009 semester, some required class textbooks will be available as UDTs. The eco-friendly concept, Swanson says, is quickly becoming the "new wave of the future."

How do e-books work? Students purchase activation cards at the Andrews University Bookstore. The receipt contains an access code to view online PDF textbooks.

Simply put, students will be able to read class material online instead of buying actual textbooks.

The e-books are user-friendly and a cost-effective alternative for students. More importantly, UDTs are considered "the green alternative to printing," requiring no paper, no ink and significantly less shipping material.

"For students to be successful, we must give them all of the resources possible," says Swanson. "I don't foresee a day of no textbooks. Right now, I just want to try this and see how it goes."

Ashleigh Jardine, student news writer, Office
of Integrated Marketing & Communication



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